What’s happening in MYP classrooms?

Year 9 Language A: English

Guiding Question: Why is there so Much Ado About Shakespeare?

After an investigation of Shakespeare’s prominence in English literature and evaluating some of Shakespeare’s sonnets, we launched into a viewing of Kenneth Branagh’s film of Much Ado About Nothing. Students were then asked to think about the staging of a Shakespearean play – should it be set in Shakespearean times or modernised for contemporary audiences? Working in pairs the students designed a set for a scene from the play or designed costumes for some of the main characters. In each case they had to explain their choices and how they would enable the audience to better understand the play. The Approaches to Learning for the unit were: “working effectively with others, generating novel ideas and considering new perspectives” and “considering ideas from multiple perspectives.”

“I learnt that to create the drawings I really needed to pay attention to the character and their personality as their clothing needed to relate to or match the character....”

(Belle).

“I learnt many other things about Shakespeare’s scenes. The one that we chose was a happy scene and we made the set very bright and colourful because it was joyful and it had a happy ending. “(Sarah)

“In this assignment I learnt the importance of costumes, music and sets to a play. They set the scene for the play and add character and originality to a play.”

(Alex)

“As we researched different options for costumes incorporating their personalities as well as their style, I found it was quite challenging.”

(Amy)

“My creative thinking and designing was expanded and I revisited old skills when we had to write arguments for and against a statement relevant to Shakespeare and the unit.”

(Luci)

Thanks to Mrs Cramond